

REMARKS

Claims 1 through 31 are now presented for examination. Claims 1-18 and 29 have been cancelled without prejudice or disclaimer of subject matter. Claims 19, 22, 24, 27, 30 and 31 have been amended to define still more clearly what Applicant regards as his invention, in terms which distinguish over the art of record. Claims 19, 22, 24, 27, 30 and 31 are the only independent claims.

Claims 19-28, 30 and 31 have been rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 103(a) as unpatentable over U.S. Patent 6,628,413 (Lee) in view of U.S. Patent 6,351,317 (Sasaki et al.). With regard to the claims as currently amended, this rejection is respectfully traversed.

Independent Claim 19 as currently amended is directed to image forming apparatus in which a data acquisition request for a server is input on a network. An acquisition unit implements respective acquisition processes that access individual servers on the network in parallel and acquires respective data for the individual servers in a case where plural data acquisition requests for individual servers are inputted by the input unit. An image data generation unit generates image formation data on the basis of the respective data acquired in the acquisition processes implemented by the acquisition unit. An image forming unit forms an image on the basis of the image formation data generated by the image data generation unit and a control unit controls the image data generation unit to generate the image formation data in an order in which the acquisition unit has acquired the respective acquired data from the individual servers and the image forming unit to form an image in the order of the generated image formation data. In a case where a second data acquisition request from the input unit is inputted

while the acquisition unit implements a first acquisition process based on a first acquisition request from the input unit, the acquisition unit implements a second acquisition process based on the second data acquisition request in parallel with the first acquisition process and the order of data acquisition requests from the input unit is not always related to order of respective data acquired in the respective acquisition processes. Claims 24 and 30 are corresponding method and memory medium claims.

Independent Claim 22 as currently amended is directed to image forming apparatus in which a data acquisition request for a server on a network is input by an input unit. A data acquisition unit implements respective acquisition processes to access the individual servers on the network in parallel and acquires respective data from the individual servers. An image data generation unit generates image formation data corresponding to each server on the basis of the data acquired in the acquisition processes by the data acquisition unit. The image data generation unit generates the image formation data in the order in which the data acquisition unit has acquired the respective acquired data from the individual servers. An image forming unit forms an image on the basis of the image formation data generated by the image data generation unit. A control unit controls the image forming unit to form an image in the order of generation of the generated image formation data. In a case where a second data acquisition request from the input unit is input while the data acquisition unit implements a first acquisition process based on the first data acquisition request from the input unit, the data acquisition unit implements the second acquisition process based on the second data acquisition request in parallel with the first acquisition process. The order of data acquisition requests from the input unit is not always

related to the order of respective data acquired in the respective acquisition processes. Claims 27 and 31 are corresponding method and memory medium claims.

In Applicants' view, Lee discloses an arrangement for printing documents based on Java commands in which a Java printer receives page layout requests and converts the requests into a rasterized image which is transferred to a recording medium. Page layout can be interactively modified. The Java printer also monitors print requests and is configurable using a World Wide Web interface.

In Applicants' opinion, Sasaki et al. discloses a printing system that has at least one data processing apparatus for generating data to form an image and a printing apparatus for printing the image. The data processing apparatus and the printing apparatus are connected with each other via a network. The data processing apparatus has a generating device for generating print command data, which includes a plurality of commands to form the image. A print command data sending device sends the generated print command data to the printing apparatus and a dot data receiving device receives dot data from the printing apparatus. A preview image forming device forms a preview image by using the received dot data; and a displaying device displays the preview image. The printing apparatus has a print command data receiving device for receiving the print command data from the data processing apparatus. A converting device converts the received print command data into print data which includes a plurality of the dot data each of which corresponds to a different dot of the image. A first extracting device extracts a first part of the dot data from the print data and a dot data sending device sends the extracted dot data to the data processing apparatus via the network.

According to the invention defined in Claims 19, 22, 24, 27, 30 and 31, acquisition means implements respective acquisition processes that access individual servers on the network in parallel and acquires respective data for the individual servers in a case where plural data acquisition requests for individual servers are inputted by the input unit. In the case where a second data acquisition request from the input unit is inputted while the acquisition unit implements a first acquisition process based on a first acquisition request from the input unit, the acquisition unit implements a second acquisition process based on the second data acquisition request in parallel with the first acquisition process and the order of data acquisition requests from the input unit is not always related to order of respective data acquired in the respective acquisition processes.

Lee may disclose a Java printer that can open and print a document specified by an appropriate URL and as disclosed at lines 22-30 of column 6 of Lee "the Java printer 110 can multi-task between any of its functions (i.e., printing the current job, receiving a new job, pausing a job, killing a job, reordering the job such that a job is made the next job to be printed or the last job to be printed, displaying characteristics of a job, resuming a paused job, setting default configuration information or determining the status of the printer)." In accordance with Lee's multitasking, Lee can queue print jobs and receive a new print job while printing a current print job. Lee's printer, however, is not configured to receive new jobs by accessing individual servers in parallel where plural data acquisition requests are for the individual servers are inputted. Further, Lee is devoid of any suggestion of implementing a second acquisition process based on a second data acquisition request in parallel with a first acquisition process when a second data acquisition

request is inputted while the acquisition unit implements a first acquisition request based on a first acquisition request as in Claims 19, 22, 24, 27, 30 and 31. Accordingly, it is not seen that Lee's multitasking among different functions which cannot multitask different receiving processes in any manner teaches or suggests the feature of Claims 19, 22, 24, 27, 30 and 31 of acquiring respective data from individual servers by implementing respective acquisition processes for accessing the individual servers on a network in parallel. It is therefore not seen that Lee in any manner teaches or suggests the features of Claims 19, 22, 24, 27, 30 and 31.

Sasaki et al. may disclose a printing system that accesses a server according to a URL description from a client, receives HTML from the server and prints it. In Sasaki et al., a specified process is selected by a tag in the HTML for displaying or printing data indicated by the tag, the HTML data is spooled and the spooled data is read out in sequence and converted to print data. Sasaki et al., however, only receives print jobs one by one and implements the sequence of print jobs but is devoid of any disclosure of acquiring respective data from individual servers by implementing respective acquisition processes for accessing the individual servers on a network in parallel as in Claims 19, 22, 24, 27, 30 and 31.

With regard to the cited combination, Lee only provides multitasking of different functions but fails to teach or suggest acquiring respective data from individual servers by implementing respective acquisition processes for accessing the individual servers on a network in parallel. Sasaki et al. only teaches receiving print jobs one by one and implementing print jobs sequentially. It is not seen that the addition of Sasaki's sequential acquisition of print jobs added to Lee's multitasking of different functions such as printing the current job, receiving a new job,

pausing a job, killing a job, reordering the job such that a job is made the next job to be printed or the last job to be printed, displaying characteristics of a job, resuming a paused job could possibly suggest the feature of Claims 19, 22, 24, 27, 30 and 31 of an acquisition unit that implements respective acquisition processes that access individual servers on the network in parallel and acquires respective data for the individual servers in a case where plural data acquisition requests for individual servers are inputted by the input unit combined with the feature of, in a case where a second data acquisition request from the input unit is inputted while the acquisition unit implements a first acquisition process based on a first acquisition request from the input unit, the acquisition unit implements a second acquisition process based on the second data acquisition request in parallel with the first acquisition process whereby the order of data acquisition requests from the input unit is not always related to order of respective data acquired in the respective acquisition processes. It is therefore believed that Claims 19, 22, 24, 27, 30 and 31 as currently amended are completely distinguished from any combination of Lee and Sasaki et al. and are allowable.

A review of the other art of record has failed to reveal anything which, in Applicants' opinion, would remedy the deficiencies of the art discussed above, as references against the independent claims herein. Those claims are therefore believed patentable over the art of record. Applicants submit that the amendments to independent Claims 19, 22, 24, 27, 30 and 31 clarify Applicants' invention and serve to reduce any issues for appeal.

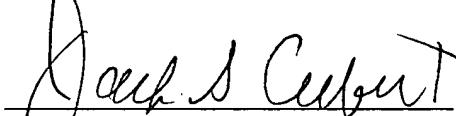
The other claims in this application are each dependent from one or another of the independent claims discussed above and are therefore believed patentable for the same reasons.

Since each dependent claim is also deemed to define an additional aspect of the invention, however, the individual reconsideration of the patentability of each on its own merits is respectfully requested.

In view of the foregoing amendments and remarks, Applicants respectfully request favorable reconsideration and early passage to issue of the present application. The Examiner is respectfully requested to enter this Amendment After Final Action under 37 C.F.R. § 1.116.

Applicants' attorney, Daniel S. Glueck, may be reached in Washington, D.C. by telephone at (202) 530-1010. All correspondence should continue to be directed to the below-listed address.

Respectfully submitted,



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